

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-23 (previously canceled without prejudice)

24. (presently amended) A method of providing online repository library services to a plurality of users by a service provider operating a server computer connected to the Internet, said Internet being capable of transmitting and/or receiving one or more information objects, each said information object comprising voice, video, data, text and/or any combinations thereof, said server computer configured to hold ~~digital items~~ information objects, for each of the plurality of users, said each of the plurality of users having an account with the server computer, the method comprising the following steps performed by the server computer:

allocating storage to store a first user's information as the user's online repository library;

assigning an address for the first user's online repository library;

receiving the first user's account information;

receiving an information object ~~a digital item~~;

storing the information object ~~digital item~~ in the first user's online repository library;

if the information object ~~digital item~~ is copyright-protected, then

~~receiving license information for the digital item;~~

~~storing the license information along with the copyright-protected digital item in the first user's online library;~~

examining ~~the~~ license information for the copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~ to determine a number N (where $N \geq 1$) of simultaneous users who could access the copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~; and

allowing no more than N simultaneous users to access the copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~.

25. (presently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the information object ~~digital item~~ is a news article, a web page, a bookmark, a document, an e-book, an image, a piece of music, a piece of audio, a video clip, or a movie.

26. (presently amended) A method of providing online repository ~~library~~ services to a plurality of users by a service provider operating a server computer connected to the Internet, said server computer configured to hold information objects ~~digital items~~ for each of the plurality of users, said each of the plurality of users having an account with the server computer, the method comprising the following steps performed by the server computer:

receiving an information object, wherein said information object comprises voice, video, data, text and/or any combinations thereof a digital item;

storing the information object ~~digital item~~ in a first user's online repository ~~library~~;

if the information object ~~digital item~~ is copyright-protected, then

receiving license information for the copyright-protected information object, said license information indicating that the license is for access of the information object ~~digital item~~ for a predetermined time (T_{license});

permitting access of the copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~ in accordance with the time constraint imposed by the license information;
and

disabling access to the copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~
upon expiration of the predetermined time (T_{license}).

27. (presently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the step of allowing no more than N simultaneous users to access the copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~ comprises the step of:

receiving a request from n requesters to access a copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~ having N (where $N \geq 1$) licenses;

allowing each of the n (where $n \leq N$) requesters to access the information object ~~digital item~~ for a predetermined period of time (T_{access}).

28. (presently amended) The method of claim 27, further comprising the steps of:
establishing a waiting list for each of the remaining ($n > N$) requesters; and
when one of the N licenses becomes available, permitting one of the requesters on the waiting list to access the information object ~~digital item~~.

29. (presently amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of:
streaming content of the information object ~~digital item~~ to said one or more of N users.

30. (presently amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising the step of:
suitably formatting the information object ~~digital item~~ for access by said one or more of N users.

31. (presently amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of formatting includes:
initiating a handshaking protocol with a designated device to establish the type of formatting required to make the information object ~~digital item~~ accessible to said one or more of N users.

32. (presently amended) A computer system configured to permit sharing of digital content between a first party and a second party, said computer system comprising:

a data communications capable of establishing a connection with the Internet said Internet being capable of transmitting and/or receiving one or more information objects, each said information object comprising voice, video, data, text and/or any combinations thereof;

an account establishment module capable of establishing an account for the first party and storing the first party's account information in the database;

a database interface module capable of storing in said database one or more copyright-protected information objects ~~digital items~~; and

a security module capable of making the one or more copyright-protected information objects ~~digital items~~ accessible to the second party in accord with one or more constraints imposed by respective license information associated with the one or more copyright-protected information objects ~~digital items~~.

33. (presently amended) The computer system of claim 32 wherein the one or more constraints imposed by the license information restricts the number N (where $N \geq 1$) of times the copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~ may be accessed simultaneously.

34. (presently amended) The computer system of claim 33, further comprising a locking mechanism configured to prevent access to the copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~ more than N times simultaneously.

35. (presently amended) The computer system of claim 32 wherein the one or more constraints imposed by license information associated with a copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~ restricts the time during which a user may access the copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~.

36. (presently amended) The computer system of claim 32 wherein the copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~ is made accessible via a browser-controlled window.

37. (presently amended) The computer system of claim 32 wherein the copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~ is made accessible via the HTTP protocol.

38. (presently amended) The computer system of claim 32 wherein the copyright-

protected information object ~~digital item~~ is made accessible via a streaming technique.

39. (presently amended) The computer system of claim 32 further comprising:

a formatter, said formatter capable of formatting the copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~ suitable to the requirements of a client device.

40. (presently amended) The computer system of claim 39, wherein the formatter is capable of selecting a suitable format from a database of formats to format the copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~.

41. (presently amended) The computer system of claim 39, wherein the wherein the formatter is capable of selecting a set of stored rules to format the copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~.

42. (presently amended) The computer system of claim 39, wherein the formatter formats the information object ~~digital item~~ to fit the screen of said client device.

43. (presently amended) A method of providing online repository ~~library~~ services to a first user by a service provider operating a server computer connected to the Internet, said Internet being capable of transmitting and/or receiving one or more information objects, each said information object comprising voice, video, data, text and/or any combinations thereof, said server computer configured to hold information objects ~~digital items~~ of a plurality of users, said plurality of users having accounts with the server computer, the method comprising the following steps performed by said server computer:

receiving an identification of an information object ~~a digital item~~ to be included in the

first user's online repository ~~library~~;

including the identified information object ~~digital item~~ in the first user's online repository ~~library~~;

if the identified information object ~~digital item~~ is copyright-protected, then
determining a number N, (where $N \geq 1$) of times that the copyright-protected
information object ~~digital item~~ may be simultaneously accessed; and
allowing the copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~ to be
simultaneously accessed no more than N times.

44. (presently amended) A method of sharing digital content by a plurality of users via an online repository ~~library~~ established on a server computer system connected to the Internet said Internet being capable of transmitting and receiving one or more information objects, each said information object comprising voice, video, data, text and/or any combinations thereof, and said server computer system configured to hold information objects ~~digital items~~, said server computer having an account for a first user, the method comprising the following steps performed by said server computer system:

receiving an identification of an information object ~~a digital item~~ to be included in the
first user's online repository ~~library~~;

including the identified information object ~~digital item~~ in the first ~~user's~~ online repository
~~library~~;

if the identified information object ~~digital item~~ is copyright-protected, then
determining a time period (T) during which the copyright-protected information
object ~~digital item~~ may be accessed; and
allowing the copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~ to be accessed
during that time period (T); and
disabling access to the copyright-protected information object ~~digital item~~ upon
expiration of that time period (T).